

REMARKS

The above amendment with the following remarks is submitted to be fully responsive to the Office Action of June 1, 2004. Reconsideration of this application in light of the amendment and the allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-19, 21, and 23-26 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. In response to the Office Action, claims 6 and 17 have been amended, and claim 3 has been canceled. Therefore, claims 1, 4-19, 21, and 23-26 are still pending in the present application and are believed to be in proper condition for allowance.

Initially, the Applicants acknowledge with appreciation, the Examiner's allowance of claims 1, 4, 5, 19, 21 and 23-26, and the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 6, 7, 9-16 if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

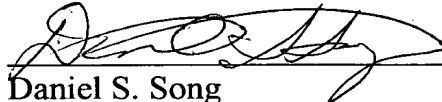
Referring now to the Office Action, claim 17 was objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper multi dependent claim form. In response, claim 17 has been amended to refer to claims in the alternative form as requested by the Examiner. Therefore, the withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 6, 7, 9-16, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, because the limitations of claim 3 were not understood based on the terms "established state" and "operating state" in line 16. In addition, claim 3 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,389,119 to McBride in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,654,957 to Koyama.

In response thereto, claim 3 has been canceled by the above amendment thereby rendering both of these rejections moot. In this regard, claims 6 and 17 have also been amended to remove their dependencies on claim 3. Therefore, the withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. However, if the Examiner deems that any issue remains after considering this response, he is invited to call the undersigned to expedite the prosecution and work out any such issue by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,


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